

# Effects of Over-the-Counter and Prescription Medications on Diabetes Control

## I. Drugs that may Alter Glycemic Effect of Sulfonylureas

- A. Enhance hypoglycemic effect (decrease blood glucose)
  - 1. Alcohol (acute use)
  - 2. Allopurinol (Zyloprim)
  - 3. Androgens
  - 4. Anticoagulants (Coumadin)
  - 5. Chloramphenicol
  - 6. Clofibrate (Atromid-S)
  - 7. Fenfluramine
  - 8. Fluconazole
  - 9. Gemfibrozil
  - 10. Histamine H<sub>2</sub> antagonists (Pepcid, Tagamet, Zantac)
  - 11. Magnesium salts
  - 12. Methyldopa
  - 13. Monoamine oxidase (MAO) inhibitors (Nardil, Parnate, Marplan)
  - 14. Phenobarbital (Donnatal)
  - 15. Phenylbutazone
  - 16. Probenecid
  - 17. Salicylates (aspirin, Disalcid, Dolobid)
  - 18. Sulfipyrazone
  - 19. Sulfonamides, (Bactrim, Gantrisin, Septra)
  - 20. Tricyclic antidepressants (Elavil, Pamelor, Tofranil, Triavil)
  - 21. Urinary acidifiers

## B. Decrease hypoglycemic effect (increase blood glucose)

- 1. Alcohol (chronic use)
- 2. Beta-blockers (can have either hypo or hyperglycemic effect)
- 3. Cholestyramine
- 4. Diazoxide (Proglycem)
- 5. Diuretics (Diuril, Hydrodiuril, Lasix, Lozol)
- 6. Hydantoin (Dilantin)
- 7. Rifampin
- 8. Urinary alkalinizers
- 9. Charcoal

## II. Drugs that Interact with Insulin

- A. Enhance hypoglycemic effect (decrease blood glucose)
  - 1. Angiotensin-converting enzyme (ACE) inhibitors
  - 2. Alcohol
  - 3. Anabolic steroids
  - 4. Beta-blockers (delay recovery from hypoglycemia)
  - 5. Calcium
  - 6. Chloroquine
  - 7. Clofibrate
  - 8. Fenfluramine
  - 9. Guanethidine
  - 10. Lithium carbonate
  - 11. MAO inhibitors
  - 12. Mebendazole
  - 13. Octreotide
  - 14. Pentamidine
  - 15. Phenylbutazone
  - 16. Pyridoxine
  - 17. Salicylates
  - 18. Sulfipyrazone
  - 19. Sulfonamides
  - 20. Tetracyclines

## B. Decrease hypoglycemic effect (increase blood glucose)

- 1. Acetazolamide
- 2. AIDS antivirals
- 3. Asparaginase
- 4. Calcitonin
- 5. Contraceptives, oral
- 6. Corticosteroids
- 7. Cyclophosphamide
- 8. Dextrothyroxine
- 9. Diazoxide
- 10. Diltiazem
- 11. dobutamine
- 12. Epinephrine
- 13. Estrogens

- 14. Ethacrynic acid
- 15. Isoniazid
- 16. Lithium carbonate
- 17. Morphine sulfate
- 18. Niacin
- 19. Phenothiazines
- 20. Nicotine
- 21. Thiazide diuretics
- 22. Thyroid drugs

### III. RULES FOR PATIENT USE

- A. ALWAYS read the medication label (take note of caution and warning labels)
  - B. ASK your pharmacist when in doubt about interaction of medications.
  - C. AVOID medication products containing sugar (corn syrup, dextrose, glucose, sucrose, and fructose).
  - D. AVOID medication products containing alcohol; if consumed, the smaller the percentage the better.
  - E. AVOID salicylates in large doses unless prescribed by physician.
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Ballard AM, 2000. *Medication Effects*. The Diabetes Ready-Reference Guide for Health Care Professionals. American Diabetes Association.©